



Docket No.: 2038-230

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| In re Application of | : | : | EXPEDITED PROCEDURE |
| N. SHIMOE et al. | : | : | Response under 37 CFR 1.116 |
| | : | : | |
| Serial No. 09/458,077 | : | : | Group Art Unit: 3761 |
| | : | : | |
| Filed: December 10, 1999 | : | : | Examiner: M. Kidwell |
| | : | : | |

17/15/03
4-8-3

For: DISPOSABLE BODY FLUID ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING LONGITUDINAL
SIDE GROOVE

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

RECEIVED
APR 17 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2003, which was made Final. Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments **as to form** be entered to place this application in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21. (Twice Amended) The article of claim 6, wherein at least one of the side regions of said core has a thickness gradually decreasing from the respective one of the indented regions toward the respective one of the transversely opposite sides of said core.